

REMARKS

Claims 14, 18, 22, 23, 49-55, 57-61, 63-66, and 68-69 are the pending claims in the present application. Applicants cancel, without prejudice, claim 60. Applicants reserve the right to prosecute claims of similar or differing scope in future applications. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration in view of the following remarks. Issues raised by the Examiner will be addressed below in the order they appear in the prior Office Action.

Continued Examination

Applicants note with appreciation that the finality of the prior rejection has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114, and that Applicants' submission filed November 28, 2003 has been entered.

Specification

Applicants' amendment to the specification is believed to obviate the objection.

Double Patenting

Claim 18 is rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as allegedly being unpatentable over claims 62-129 of U.S. Patent No. 6,165,787. Applicants enclose herewith a terminal disclaimer which is believed to obviate the rejection. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are requested.

Claims 23, 50-53 and 65, 66, 68, and 69 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as allegedly being unpatentable over claims 1-71 of U.S. Patent No. 6,043,082. Applicants enclose herewith a terminal disclaimer which is believed to obviate the rejection. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are requested.

Claims 18, 22 and 23 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as allegedly being unpatentable over claims 87-142 and 154-162 of U.S. Patent No. 5,869,337. Applicants enclose herewith a terminal disclaimer which is believed to obviate the rejection. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are requested.

Claims 14, 18 and 64 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as allegedly being unpatentable over claims 72-202 of U.S. Patent No. 5,834,266. Applicants enclose herewith a terminal disclaimer which is believed to obviate the rejection. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are requested.

Claims 14, 18 and 22 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as allegedly being unpatentable over claims 14-28, 37, 38, 40, 43-52 and 60-62 of U.S. Patent No. 6,117, 680. To expedite prosecution, Applicants have amended independent claim 22 to incorporate the features of claim 60 already indicated as allowable by the Examiner. Given that previously pending claim 60, which was dependent upon claim 22, was in condition for allowance, incorporation of the limitations of claim 60 into claim 22 (and thus into claim 14, 18, and other claims dependent upon claim 22) obviates the need to file a terminal disclaimer and places these claims in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are requested.

Claims 49, 54, 55, 57-61, and 63 were previously indicated as in condition for allowance, and Applicants' submission of the above referenced terminal disclaimers is believed to resolve the remaining outstanding issues and place all of the pending claims in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Early and favorable reconsideration is respectfully solicited. The Examiner may address any questions raised by this submission to the undersigned at 617-951-7000. Should an extension of time be required, Applicants hereby petition for same and request that the extension fee and any other fee required for timely consideration of this submission be charged to **Deposit Account No. 18-1945, under Order No. APBI-P16-316.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Date: October 4, 2004

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